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             IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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              FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
 2
 3
    IN RE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY
 4
    AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE
 6
    LITIGATION
 7
              ______MDL No. 1456
    THIS DOCUMENT RELATES CIVIL ACTION: 01-CV-12257-PBS
 8
    TO ALL CLASS ACTIONS. Judge Patti B. Saris
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11
12
               DEPOSITION OF ROBERT A. HOWE
13
              TAKEN ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS
14
                   NOVEMBER 16, 2005
15
   BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, pursuant to the Federal Rules
16
   of Civil Procedure, the deposition of ROBERT A. HOWE
17
18
   was taken before Laurie A. Volker, Registered
19
   Professional Reporter, on November 16, 2005,
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   commencing at the hour of 10:21 a.m., the proceedings
   being reported at 66 East Sixth Avenue, Eugene,
21
   Oregon.
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- 1 Mr. Howe, do you receive any documents from
- 2 your supplemental insurance provider that would
- 3 explain the details of that coverage from them?
- 4 A. Yes, sir, I do.
- 5 Q. What kind of documents do you receive?
- A. Similar to the Medicare documents.
- 7 Q. So you have a document that describes the
- 8 plan details?
- 9 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll object to that as
- 10 vague.
- 11 MR. PELAYO: I'll ask it again.
- 12 BY MR. PELAYO:
- 13 Q. Have you ever received a document from
- 14 United Health Care that describes the details of your
- 15 plan?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. So you don't have such a document in your
- 18 possession at home?
- 19 A. Not from United Health Care.
- Q. From whom do you have it?
- 21 A. From Wells Fargo.
- 22 O. Okav. So vou received a document from

- 1 Wells Fargo that relates to United Health Care?
- A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Okay. And it describes the details of the
- 4 plan?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. And you have that at home?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay.
- 9 Do you receive documents -- which I'll call
- 10 explanations of benefits, like the CMS documents that
- 11 we talked about earlier -- do you receive such
- 12 explanations of benefits with respect to United
- 13 Health Care?
- 14 A. Yes, I do.
- 15 Q. And do you have those at home?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And would those be in the same cabinet
- 18 where you keep the Medicare CMS documents?
- 19 A. I keep -- yes.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 And would you say that you have
- 22 approximately the same level of recordkeeping for

- 1 United Health Care that you do for Medicare?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Okay. So -- and this is a compliment --
- 4 you've pretty much kept most of these records?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 Have you -- in connection with this
- 8 litigation, have you given any of these documents
- 9 we've just been describing with respect to United
- 10 Health Care to your lawyers?
- 11 A. I believe I have.
- 12 Q. Okay. And this is not a question for you,
- 13 this is just a statement for the record.
- MR. PELAYO: Mr. Williams, we will request
- 15 formally that we receive all the documents relating
- 16 to Mr. Howe's supplemental insurance coverage which
- 17 he has testified he has in his possession and he has
- 18 given to counsel. We'd like those produced
- 19 immediately, and we've documented this request in
- 20 several letters to counsel.
- 21 We believe that these documents are urgent
- 22 to our ability to prepare for the upcoming class cert

- 1 submission as they bear directly upon his coinsurance
- 2 payment, and whether or not it's related to AWP.
- MR. WILLIAMS: I'll note the request, and I
- 4 have no response other than we'll take it under
- 5 advisement.
- As you know, this is a broader issue that
- 7 covers other deponents, other documents, and we're
- 8 not going to resolve it today, but you've stated your
- 9 request on the record, and I've noted it.
- MR. PELAYO: Okay.
- 11 BY MR. PELAYO:
- 12 Q. Mr. Howe, did -- I think I know the answer
- 13 to my own question.
- 14 Your wife has been a home -- let me
- 15 withdraw it.
- 16 Your wife has not worked since at least
- 17 1990; correct?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. So does she have any insurance coverage of
- 20 her own?
- 21 A. She has Medicare A and B.
- 22 O. Okav. Does she have a supplemental

- 1 only producing checks relating to cancer treatments?
- 2 Let me strike that.
- 3 So is the only reason you've seen doctors
- 4 at Oregon Urology for your cancer treatment?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. What else have you been seeing them for?
- 7 A. A bladder condition.
- 8 Q. Okay. Do you receive any medications for
- 9 that condition that are administered by a physician?
- 10 A. Just a prescription for a pill.
- 11 Q. A pill. Okay.
- 12 Mr. Howe -- and here I really am asking for
- 13 your help.
- 14 Let's just take, as an example, the
- 15 document that was marked as Exhibit Howe 002, the set
- 16 of documents, the explanations of benefits?
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Let's take the top one, which is marked
- 19 Howe 0014.
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. And there was a date of service on
- 22 December 2nd, 2003.

- 1 A. That's what it says.
- 2 Q. Can you look now at Exhibit Howe 003 which
- 3 I gave you, which are the set of cancelled checks,
- 4 and show me which check reflects your payment for
- 5 that service?
- 6 A. I cannot.
- 7 Q. That's fine. Have you produced the
- 8 cancelled check that would reflect your payment for
- 9 that service on December 2nd, 2003?
- 10 MR. WILLIAMS: Objection to form.
- 11 A. I don't know, because I don't get billed
- 12 from Oregon Urology Specialists with any specific
- 13 numbers that tie to this.
- 14 BY MR. PELAYO:
- 15 Q. I see. So when you think of your payments,
- 16 you think of what your payment looks like, your
- 17 invoice looks like, from Oregon Urology?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And do you have all of those invoices?
- 20 Have you kept those?
- 21 A. I believe I have.
- 22 O. And have vou provided -- have vou given

- 1 those to your lawyers in connection with this
- 2 litigation?
- 3 A. I'm not sure.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 MR. PELAYO: I'll just make a statement on
- 6 the record, Kent. These are invoices from his
- 7 medical provider that reflect billing for
- 8 physician-administered drugs, and we ask that you
- 9 provide those as soon as possible.
- 10 MR. WILLIAMS: Duly noted.
- 11 BY MR. PELAYO:
- 12 Q. So just going back to this -- and we won't
- 13 go through the chore of it, because I think I know
- 14 what your answer's going to be -- but is it safe to
- 15 say that to ask you to try to match up the cancelled
- 16 checks with these explanation of benefits, it would
- 17 not be possible for you because you don't think of
- 18 them in this way, you think of them in terms of the
- 19 invoices you receive from Oregon Urology?
- 20 A. Right. Correct.
- 21 Q. Okay. That's helpful.
- 22 I'm going to give you now a document that's

21

Α.

Dr. Bergreen.

KLINE & SPECTER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION



Direct Fax: 215-735-0957 Respond to: Philadelphia Office terrianne.benedetto@klinespecter.com

November 23, 2005

VIA LEXISNEXIS

Mark G. Young, Esquire

PATTERSON BELKNAP WEBB & TYLER
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-6710

Re: In Re: Pharmaceutical Industry Average Wholesale Price Litigation; MDL No. 1456

Dear Mr. Young:

As you know, David Clark passed away on November 5, 2005. His son, Roger Clark, is in the process of having an estate raised and is going to replace his father as the class representative on behalf of his father's estate. Please provide me with at least two dates in the coming two weeks on which you or another defense counsel are available to conduct the deposition of Roger Clark in Show Low, Arizona.

Very truly yours,

TERRIANNE BENEDETTO

TAB/jn

cc: All Counsel of Record (via LexisNexis)

From: Steve Berman [mailto:Steve@hbsslaw.com] Sent: Monday, November 14, 2005 10:16 AM

To: Lynch, Mark

Subject: RE: Proposed Class Reps

- 1. We are making no representation that the class 3 representatives have "some nexus with Mass law". There is nothing in the pleading that suggests that and we identified the their residency in the complaint. If you read the complaint you can see that and if your reason for deposing these folks was to establish that you have wasted your clients money due to our own actions. We would have answered any questions regarding contacts with Massachusetts by letter or stipulation if that was the main objective of the deposition or the reason for its being taken.
- 2. Our listing of alternate individuals makes no representation that they are Medicare beneficiaries, and indeed the fact they are listed in class 3 makes it clear from the outset that we

were arguing they were sufficient if the court finds the other reps offered not sufficient even though they were not Medicare beneficiaries. Again a reading of the proposed order and the complaint makes that obvious and if there was any ambiguity you could have sought clarification before taking depositions. You chose not to and cannot therefore fault us for your actions.

To "summarize" we stand on all of the class representatives offered. if you simply wish to challenge whether they are Medicare beneficiaries or their nexus to Massachusetts short of deposition you can do so w/o taking a deposition.

From: Lynch, Mark [mailto:mlynch@cov.com] Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2005 1:04 PM

To: Steve Berman

Subject: RE: Proposed Class Reps

Your designation of individuals as Class 3 representatives is a representation that they have some nexus with Massachusetts that would enable them to bring a claim under Massachusetts law. Our depositions are demonstrating that representation to be false, and you should withdraw any additional such proposed class representatives before we are put to the needless burden of deposing them to establish that they have no nexus with Massachusetts.

With respect to Class1, your response indicates that you are not sufficiently familiar with your own papers. Plaintiffs' "Proposed Consolidated Order Re: Motion for Class Certification" lists some 22 individuals as both Class 1 and Class 3 representatives. See id. at p. 2. Your listing of these individuals as Class 1 representatives in your proposed order is a representation that they are Medicare beneficiaries, and our depositions are demonstrating that representation to be false.

To summarize: if there are individuals who are not Medicare beneficiaries or do not have any nexus with Massachusetts that would enable them to assert a claim under Massachusetts law, you should withdraw them as proposed class representatives promptly.

From: Steve Berman [mailto:Steve@hbsslaw.com]

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 2:25 PM

To: Lynch, Mark

Subject: RE: Proposed Class Reps

The complaint identifies the status and residence of each of

the class representatives. You can see from its face that the Class 3 reps you have deposed are not Massachusetts residents. Therefore if you believe this is a defect in their being class reps, you have no reason to depose them and have undertaken to do so with full knowledge of their position before you took the dpes. On your theory there is no need to depose such reps who have not been deposed yet, so I don't see how we are increasing your costs.

The Class 1 reps are Medicare beneficiaries so we don't know what you refer to in your mail.

From: Lynch, Mark [mailto:mlynch@cov.com] Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2005 3:11 PM

To: Steve Berman

Subject: Proposed Class Reps

Dear Steve:

We have taken the depositions of six of your proposed class representatives — Ms. Palenica, Mr. Vanderwal, Ms. Vernick, Ms. Leef, Ms. Dison and Ms. Choice — and none of them are Medicare beneficiaries or have any connection with Massachusetts that would give them standing to assert a claim under Massachusetts law. Because such individuals cannot conceivably be representatives of either Class 1 or Class 3, you are vexatiously wasting defendants' time and money by listing such individuals as potential class representatives and requiring defendants to depose them within the short time allowed by the Court's August 16 order.

The Court's August 16 decision is clear that Class 1 is limited to Medicare beneficiaries who personally made payments for all or part of co-payments that were based on AWPs. The decision is also clear that Class 3 -- third-party payers and consumers that pay for physician-administered drugs outside the Medicare Part B context -- is limited to "a statewide class in Massachusetts." Slip. op. at 4. We understand that you hope to persuade Judge Saris to certify classes of third-party payers and individuals who pay for PADs outside of Medicare Part B under state laws in addition to Massachusetts'. That goal, however, must be the subject of additional motions practice. The August 16 order does not provide for such classes, and purported representatives of such classes are completely irrelevant to the proceedings required by the August 16 order.

We ask you to promptly eliminate from your list of proposed class representatives all individuals who are not Medicare beneficiaries or lack any nexus with Massachusetts that

would give them standing to assert a claim under Massachusetts law as a representative of Class 3. If you fail to do so and require us to conduct additional depositions of such individuals, we will ask the Court to reimburse defendants for the fees and costs incurred in preparing for and conducting such depositions.

Sincerely,

Mark

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1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
3	
4	
5	IN RE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY
6	AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE MDL No. 1456
7	LITIGATION
8) CIVIL ACTION:
9	THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO 01-CV-12257-PBS
10	ALL CLASS ACTIONS
11)
12	
13	The discovery deposition of
14	ANNA CHOICE, taken in the above-entitled case,
15	before Karyn Chalem, CSR, RPR, on the 10th day of
16	November, 2005, at 1:35 o'clock p.m. at the offices
17	of Hagens, Berman, Sobol & Shapiro, 60 West
18	Randolph Street, Suite 200, Chicago, Illinois,
19	pursuant to agreement of counsel.
20	
21	Reported by: Karyn H. Chalem
22	License No.: 084-004167

November 10, 2005

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1	insurance that covers your medical expenses?
2	A No, I don't.
3	Q Are you eligible for Medicare?
4	A No, I'm not.
5	Q Are you eligible for Medicaid?
6	A No, I'm not.
7	Q Do you receive Social Security
8	benefits?
9	A No. No, I don't.
10	Q Do you have disability insurance?
11	A Yes, I do.
12	Q Do you receive disability insurance
13	benefits?
14	A Not right now. You know, if I need
15	any, I know I can get it.
16	Q Have you received any disability
17	insurance benefits during the time of your medical
18	treatment in this case?
19	A Yes, I did.
20	Q And during what time period did you
21	receive those benefits?
22	A Okay. I got sick in 2000. So I got

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	42
1	A These were on the bills that were
2	sent to me.
3	Q So I understand they were on the
4	bills that were sent to you. What is the basis for
5	your assertion that you paid out-of-pocket amounts
6	for those drugs?
7	MS. FEGAN: Objection, asked and
8	answered, but you can answer again.
9	THE WITNESS: As far as I know, I
10	did, from the bills that were sent to me.
11	BY MR. DOVE:
12	Q And you paid those bills?
13	A Not all of them I've paid. I'm
14	still paying on them.
15	Q Do you know for which drugs you have
16	paid and for which drugs you're still paying on?
17	A No, I really don't.
18	Q Ms. Choice, when were you diagnosed
19	with cancer?
20	A 2000.
21	Q What type of cancer were you
22	diagnosed with?

November 10, 2005

Chicago, IL

45 three months for a checkup, and I still have the 2 port in my chest and he cleans that out. 3 Just so I understand it, as I understand it, you received -- you were diagnosed with breast cancer, you received this initial round of chemotherapy and radiation in 2000, early 2001, and since that time, you go every three months for 8 a checkup, but you're basically cancer-free, is 9 that correct? 10 Hopefully, thank God. 11 0 Great. 12 Do you believe that Dr. Thomas is 13 doing his best to help you get well? 14 Α Yes, I do. 15 0 Do you believe that Dr. Thomas has 16 your best interests at heart? 17 Α I hope he does. 18 Do you believe that he does? Q 19 Α Yes, I do. 20 0 Do you believe that Dr. Thomas has 21 conspired with the drug companies to defraud you? 22 Objection, calls for a MS. FEGAN:

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Chicago, IL

46 1 legal conclusion, but you can answer. 2 THE WITNESS: I really don't know 3 about that. They think everything is a business anyway, so... 5 BY MR. DOVE: You say you don't know, but do you 7 think that he has conspired with drug companies to 8 defraud you? 9 MS. FEGAN: Same objection. 10 THE WITNESS: No, I don't think so. 11 BY MR. DOVE: 12 0 Do you believe that Dr. Thomas makes 13 a profit on the drugs that are -- that were 14 administered to you? 15 I really don't know. 16 0 Do you think that that would be 17 okay, if Dr. Thomas did make a profit on the drugs 18 that he administered to you? 19 Α No, I don't think it's okay. 20 0 Did you receive your chemotherapy 21 treatments from Dr. Thomas at an outpatient clinic 22 or in a hospital?

		56
1	Q	And based on that representation, do
2	these records	reflect your being prescribed
3	Cytoxan?	
4	А	Yes, it does.
5	Q	Do these records reflect your being
6	billed for Cyt	oxan?
7	A	Yes, it does.
8	Q	Do these records reflect anyone else
9	being billed f	or Cytoxan?
10	A	Blue Cross/Blue Shield.
11	Q	Do these records reflect the charges
12	made for Cytox	an?
13	А	Yes, it does.
14	Q	Do these records reflect any charges
15	being based on	AWP?
16	А	I really couldn't tell you that
17	because I don'	t know.
18	Q	Do you recall personally being
19	billed for Cyt	oxan?
20	А	No, I don't remember.
21	Q	Do these records reflect your being
22	prescribed Rub	ex? And I can represent to you that

	57
1	we were not able to find any entries for Rubex, but
2	the reason we're asking is that Rubex was mentioned
3	in your affidavit as a drug that you you took.
4	A I really don't remember.
5	Q Ms. Choice, do these records reflect
6	your being prescribed Dexamethasone Sodium? And to
7	help you out here, I can direct your attention to
8	page four.
9	Two lines under the Cyclophosphadide
10	entry, there's an entry for dexameth. Do you see
11	that?
12	A Yes, I do.
13	Q I can represent to you that that's
14	an entry for Dexamethasone Sodium.
15	Do you know the purpose of this
16	medication?
17	A No, I don't.
18	Q Do these records reflect who
19	manufactured the Dexamethasone Sodium?
20	A Not as I know it.
21	Q Do you know who manufactures
22	Dexamethasone Sodium?

	58
1	A No, I don't.
2	Q So is it correct that you have no
3	way of knowing from these records whether the
4	Dexamethasone Sodium you were prescribed was
5	manufactured by a specific company?
6	A No, I don't.
7	Q Do you know whether the charges for
8	the Dexamethasone Sodium was based on AWP?
9	A No, I don't.
10	Q Ms. Choice, do these records reflect
11	your being prescribed Heparin? And again I will
12	direct your attention to this page four. About
13	nine lines down from the dexameth entry, there's an
14	entry that says Heparin. Do you see that?
15	A Yes, I do.
16	Q So in light of that, do these
17	records reflect your being prescribed Heparin?
18	A Yes, it does.
19	Q Do you know the purpose of this
20	medication?
21	A No, I don't.
22	Q Do these records reflect who